Library

DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1955

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H. M. DAVIES,
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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COUNCIL OFFICES,
KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,
NEWTON ABBOT.

DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT - 1955

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Madam and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st. December, 1955.

The Death rate is once again below the National level after applying the Registrar General's factor for correction, due to the fact that there are many more older people in this District than are to be found in the more populous parts of the Country.

The comparison of the Death rate of the District and of the Country as a whole for the past five years are of interest:-

	Dawlish.	England & Wales.
1951	11.26	12.5
1952	8.78	11.3
1953	11.55	11.4
1954	9.09	11.3
1955	11.39	11.7

One hundred and three cases of Measles were notified during 1955, as opposed to four cases in 1954. Measles normally occur in epidemic form once every two years and it is of interest that the figure for 1955 is considerably less than for 1953 when one hundred and eighty-seven cases were reported.

Only one case of Whooping Cough was notified during 1955 as opposed to fourteen cases in 1954.

The problem associated with the aged population in Dawlish becomes progressively more acute as each year passes. More beds are slowly being provided by the County Council and the Regional

Hospital Board for the elderly persons in need of care and attention, but the rate at which this additional accommodation is provided does not keep pace with the rapidly increasing demand, and, in consequence, the difficulty of finding beds for even the most urgent cases is becoming more acute each year.

Emergency action had to be taken during the year to remove two persons, both to hospital accommodation, during 1955.

Camping is another problem which has to be dealt with in our area, and it must be admitted that there is a grave shortage of suitable camping sites for the thousands of campers who arrive in the district at the peak of the holiday season. As a result of this shortage of sites campers are occupying fields with inadequate water supplies and without sanitary arrangements. These fields and the surrounding hedges are very soon grossly polluted and a danger to the campers and also to the nearby residents.

One appreciates that the Planning Authority desires to retain the amenities of the district, but it seems to me to be a matter of urgency that more suitable fields are licensed in order that the campers who will inevitably arrive should be given the basic requirements of sanitation and a fine water supply.

Samples of the District's Water Supplies have been submitted for basteriological examination from time to time and the reports received have been satisfactory.

The disposal of untreated sewage into the sea continues, and a number of complaints regarding the pollution of the beaches are are received annually. No evidence is available to show that any bathers have contracted sewage borne diseases from sea bathing at Dawlish, and from experience elsewhere it would seem that the risk is extremely small. This, however, in no way detracts from the urgency of providing a satisfactory system for the town, and it is hoped that the Council's new scheme will be commenced without undue delay.

The arrangements for the slaughter of animals for human consumption in Dawlish are, in my opinion, unsatisfactory. One of the slaughterhouses is situated in one of the busiest parts of the town - quite out of place in a seaside resort.

I would also point out that all meat for human consumption

should be inspected by your Public Health Inspector before leaving the slaughterhouse. This has not proved possible with the Council's small staff.

I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillors, and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health

January, 1957.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)		6,091
Population Mid 1955		7,130
Population 1951 Census		7,512
Rateable Value as at 1st. January, 1955	£	53,543
Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1955	£	56,920
Product of 1d. rate as at 1st. April, 1955	£	221

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	25	33	58
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	26	34	60

Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	8.42
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	9.51
Crude Live Birth rate Administrative County of Devon	12.58
Corrected Live Birth rate Administrative County of Devon	14.34
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	15.0

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth rate per 1000 total population	0.28
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births	32.26
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births Administrative County of Devon	22.7
Corresponding rate England and Wales	23.2

DEATHS.

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 69.67 years. It is of interest to note that the average age of all male deaths was 67.11 years and for female deaths 72.70 years.

Male.	Female.	Total.
62	54	116

Crude Death rate per 1000 total population	16.27
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population	11.39
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	14.58
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	10.79
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	11.7

Infant Mortality.
(Death of Infants under One year)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year) per 1000 related live births	50.0
Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	24.1
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	24.9

Neo-Natal Mortality.
(Death of Infants under Four weeks)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

DEATHS.

Neo-Natal Mortality (continued).

Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under Four weeks) per 1000 related live births	50.0
Neo-Natal Mortality rate England and Wales	17.3

Maternal Mortality.

One maternal death occurred in this District during 1955. Five maternal deaths occurred within the Administrative County of Devon.

AGE AT DEATH

	Male.	Female.
Infants under four weeks	2	1
Infants under one year	-	-
1 -	-	-
5 -	1	-
15 -	1	1
25 -	3	1
45 -	14	7
65 -	19	12
75 and over	22	32
	62	54

Total: 116.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
All causes	62	54
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1
do. other	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-
carried forward	2	1

CAUSES OF DEATH (continued)

	Male.	Female.
brought forward·	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	6
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	4	13
Coronary disease, angina	9	3
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
Other heart disease	9	19
Other circulatory disease	3	-
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	3	--
Bronchitis	4	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	3	-
	62	54

Total: 116.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	2	7	9
Whooping Cough	-	1	1
Measles	48	55	103
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	1	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	3	4
	52	68	120.

Total: 120.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Five cases of respiratory and two cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during 1955. Details of cases are set out in the following table:-

AGE PERIODS.	CASES.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under five years	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	1	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	1	-	1
45 -	1	-	1	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-
	3	2.	1	1

Total: 7.

HOUSING.

All licensees of requisitioned accommodation have now been re-housed and no premises remain requisitioned in this Urban District.

The completion of five bungalows at Coronation Avenue practically finishes the development of this Estate with the exception of the provision of a Shop for which proposals are again under review.

The building of Bungalow accommodation mainly for the aged on the Manor Field Site is proceeding and it is hoped these will be available towards the end of 1956.

WATER SUPPLY.

This was completely satisfactory throughout the year, and, although the year proved to be hot and dry, no restrictions were required at any time. Even when visitor population was at its peak there was no need even to consider any water restriction.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During the year all sewers functioned satisfactorily but the fouling of the beaches from the sea outfall continued to be a source of complaint.

Further details were gone into in connection with the proposed Major Sewerage Scheme. From the unsewered areas (mainly Dawlish Warren) 2½ million gallons were removed from cesspools and passed through the existing sea outfall.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.

Official action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 was necessary in two cases during 1955.